

MARJORIE LIU

ISSUE 8



SANA TAKEDA



MONSTRESS

THE MONSTRESS STORY SO FAR...

In the aftermath of their battle against both the Cumaeen Mother Superior and the Arcanic Dusk Court, Maika, Kippa, and Ren fled to the seaside nation of Thyria, a maritime culture ruled by two seemingly benevolent queens. There, in a house where Maika had lived when she was small, she found a new clue to the mystery of her mother's life and death: a key made from the bone of an unknown creature.

Still seeking answers, Maika turned to the Brothers Imura, a fearsome pair of Arcanic pirates-turned-smugglers: the dearest friends of her mother, Moriko Halfwolf. They explained that the key provided entry to the mysterious Isle of Bones, a place Moriko visited in her search for answers about the legendary Shaman Empress. Though the brothers hesitated to send Maika to the accursed island, news that one of the Queens of Thyria was looking for Maika forced their hand, and they placed Maika and her companions upon a ship to begin the dangerous journey...

THE PLAYERS...



MAIKA An Arcanic teen who survived the Great War, and slavery at the hands of the Cumaeen witch nuns. Ruthless and haunted, she is determined to uncover the truth behind her mother's murder — and her mother's secrets — in the hope that she can free herself from an ancient and dangerous god called a Monstrum that is imprisoned inside her body and fills her with an otherworldly hunger for human flesh. In her current possession are two clues to her past: a photograph, and a fragment of a mask that many would kill to possess.



MONSTRUM A mysterious, primordial being of tremendous power that shares Maika's body and mind, and fights her for control. Once considered a god, and drawn into this world by the Shaman-Empress, this Monstrum is driven by a deadly hunger, consuming the lives of humans and Arcanics alike, leaving only their desiccated corpses behind. Though it may give the impression that its only wish is to survive, there's far more to this creature, and its desires, than meets the eye...



REN An enigmatic nekomancer cat with mysterious motives, he is one of Maika's companions on her journey, and perhaps an agent of the Dusk Court — or some greater power.



KIPPA An Arcanic fox girl saved from slavery by Maika. Innocent and optimistic, she is frightened by the Monstrum — but trusts Maika and will bravely defend her and others by rushing into battles too dangerous for a child.



MORIKO Maika's mother, an Arcanic, whose obsession with uncovering the secrets of the greatest Arcanic ancestor, the Shaman-Empress, led to her betrayal and murder. Her reputation as a woman of single-minded drive and intellectual brilliance has only grown since her death.



SEIZI An Arcanic hybrid and former pirate who has amassed a fortune with his brother Kenzi, he is fiercely loyal to his goddess-daughter, Maika. During his days of piracy, he knew Moriko Halfwolf well — and brought her to dangerous lands in her relentless quest to find answers about the Shaman-Empress.



Mother...

...I thought all that mattered was finding answers about your death....

...but it turns out your life is what I should have been hunting all along.

NO! LET GO! LET GO!



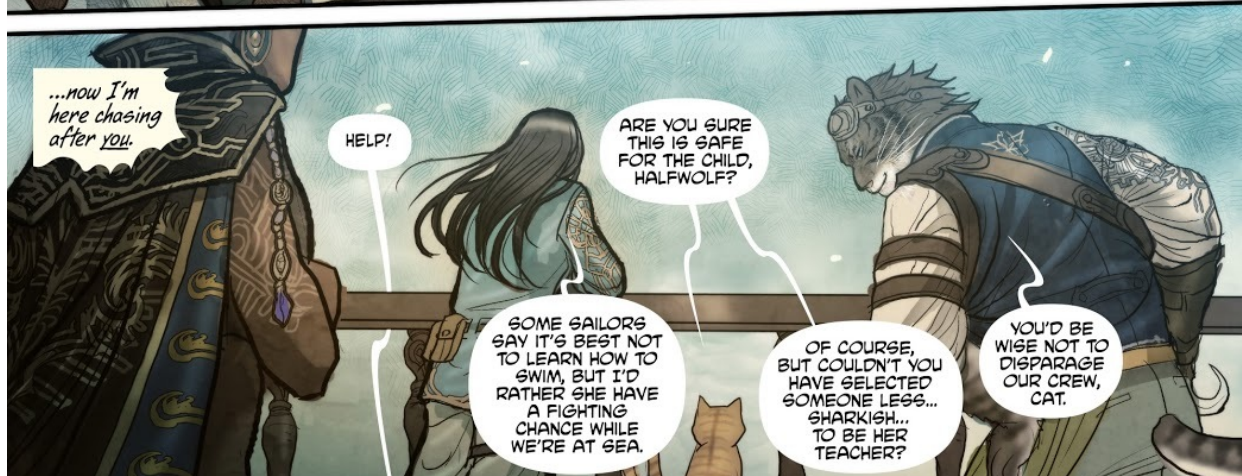
You sailed these very seas when you went searching for your answers...

THE CREW IS BACK FROM THE WELL STATION, CAPTAIN. ALL THE DRINKING WATER IS ABOARD.

GOOD, JAN. TIME WE HAD THE WIND BEHIND OUR SAILS.

I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT WE WERE BEING WATCHED, AND THAT DREAM ENDED IN BLOOD.

SEA DREAMS ARE NOT TO BE IGNORED, CAPTAIN. THOUGH WHAT THEY MEAN ONLY THE POETS CAN KNOW FOR CERTAIN.



...now I'm here chasing after you.

HELP!

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS SAFE FOR THE CHILD, HALFWOLF?

SOME SAILORS SAY IT'S BEST NOT TO LEARN HOW TO SWIM, BUT I'D RATHER SHE HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE WHILE WE'RE AT SEA.

OF COURSE, BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE SELECTED SOMEONE LESS... SHARKISH... TO BE HER TEACHER?

YOU'D BE WISE NOT TO DISPARAGE OUR CREW, CAT.



Even though you're dead, there's a part of me that believes maybe I'll find you.

YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE WHAT HAPPENS.

HSSST!



The truth is...all I'll ever find is your ghost. But for someone like me...a ghost is better than nothing.

I AM SICK TO DEATH OF BEING THREATENED BY MONGREL TIGER-KIN. PUT ANOTHER CLAW IN MY FACE, AND I'LL HAVE IT FOR A NECKLACE!



YOU, HALF-WOLF? CAN YOU SWIM?

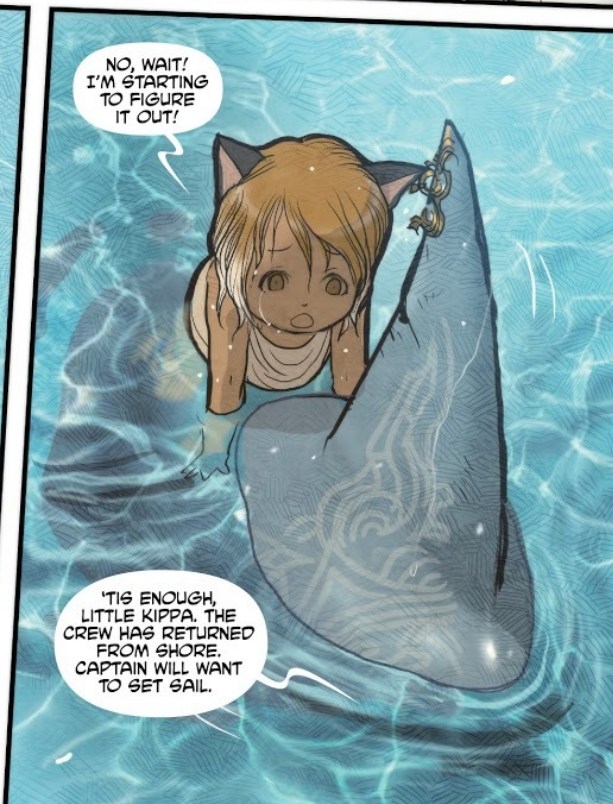
I CAN OUTSWIM YOU.

YOU'RE EITHER A LIAR OR A FOOL. NEITHER WILL LAST LONG OUT HERE.

LOOK! LOOK!



I'M DROWNING!



NO, WAIT! I'M STARTING TO FIGURE IT OUT!

'TIS ENOUGH, LITTLE KIPPA. THE CREW HAS RETURNED FROM SHORE. CAPTAIN WILL WANT TO GET SAIL.



THANK YOU FOR TRYING TO TEACH ME SWIMMING, MISS... OLD TOOTH.

I'M SORRY I JUMPED WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU. THAT WAS VERY RUDE.

YOU HAD NO REASON TO KNOW I AM AN ARCANIC. YOU LANDERS HAVE BEEN DRY SO LONG YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE FACES OF YOUR SEA SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

JAN, LEAVE THE NEKOMANCER ALONE. HE MIGHT ENSLAVE YOUR GHOST AFTER YOU DIE.

HE'LL NEED TO GROW A FEW EXTRA TAILS IF HE WANTS TO TAKE *MY* SOUL, CAPTAIN.

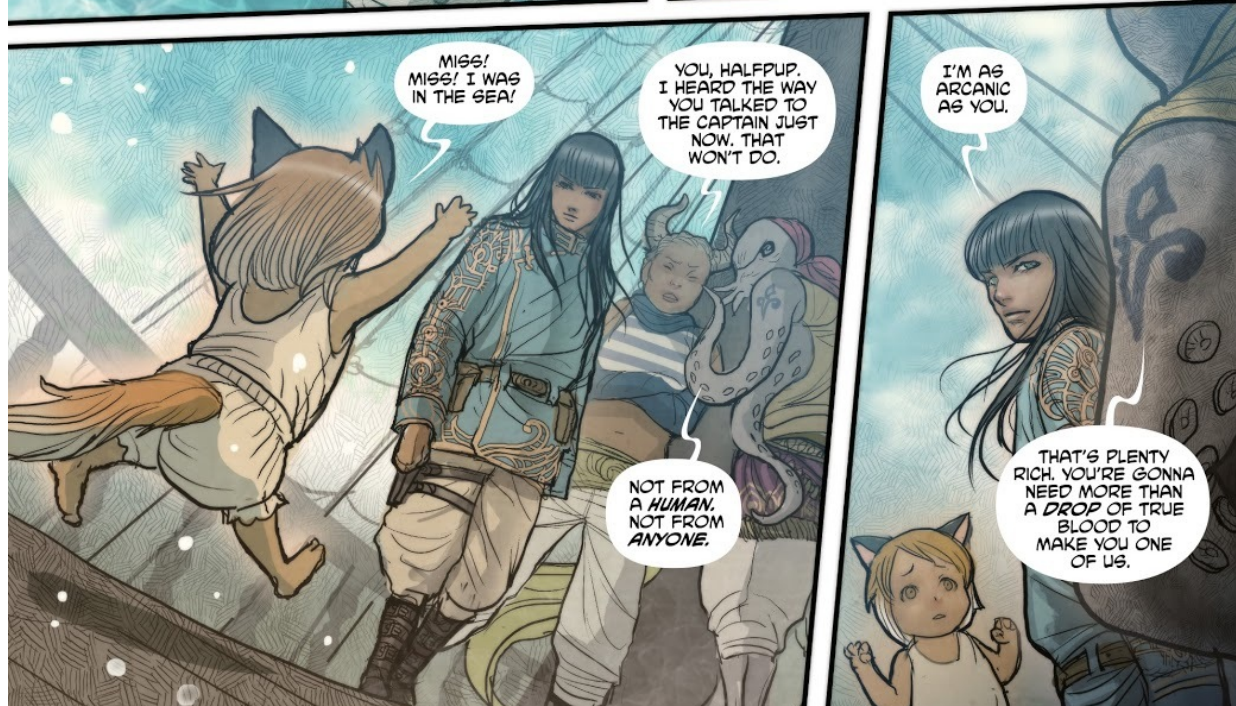
RAISE THE ANCHOR! RIXA, THE SAILS!

MASTER REN! DID YOU SEE ME DROWNING?

YES.

KIPPA.

I DID.



MISS! MISS! I WAS IN THE SEA!

YOU, HALFPUP. I HEARD THE WAY YOU TALKED TO THE CAPTAIN JUST NOW. THAT WON'T DO.

NOT FROM A *HUMAN*. NOT FROM *ANYONE*.

I'M AS ARCANIC AS YOU.

THAT'S PLENTY RICH. YOU'RE GONNA NEED MORE THAN A *DROP* OF TRUE BLOOD TO MAKE YOU ONE OF US.

Mother...

Thyrians were always famous for their tolerance, but the war has made them hard. The war made us all hard.

RIGHT NOW YOU SMELL LIKE A DIRTY HUMAN. YOU LOOK LIKE A DIRTY HUMAN.

THAT MAKES YOU A DIRTY HUMAN.

SNAK!

They don't trust people who look like me anymore...

AND YOU, A DIRTY HUMAN LOVER...

Changelings, they call us. Traitors.

CALL ME DIRTY...OR HUMAN...AGAIN.

MISS, NO!

FUCK... OFF... BACK TO THE... WITCHES...

Do you remember when I was small? How I wanted to have Goddess-marks like the other Arcanic children?

I wanted a wolf tail.
I wanted wolf claws
and wolf teeth.

AIEEEE!

Do you remember
what you said?

SHLUCK!

"Little wolf, you have all those things. But they
are safe within you, where no one can take them.

WHAM!

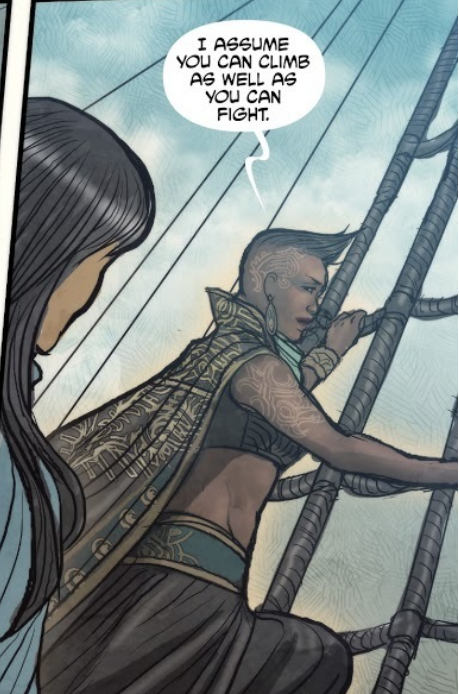
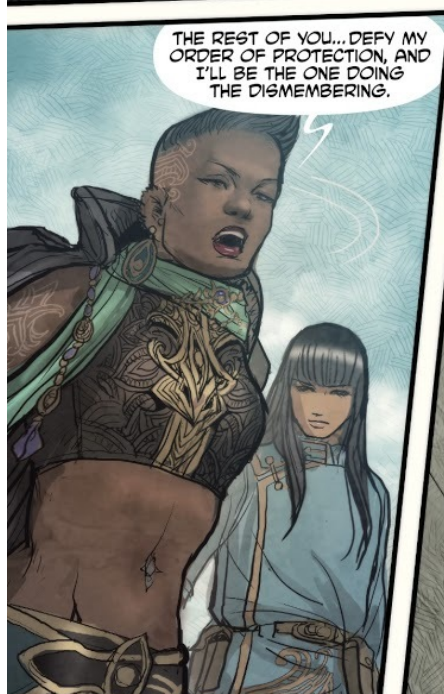
ERRGH..

"Sometimes, my
darling...it's better
to hide your teeth."

FUCK...
FUCK...

Easy enough for you,
mother...but hiding was
never easy for me.

ANYONE
ELSE WANT
TO ARGUE?





NNNGH.

A SHIP
IS A VERY
FRAGILE
THING.



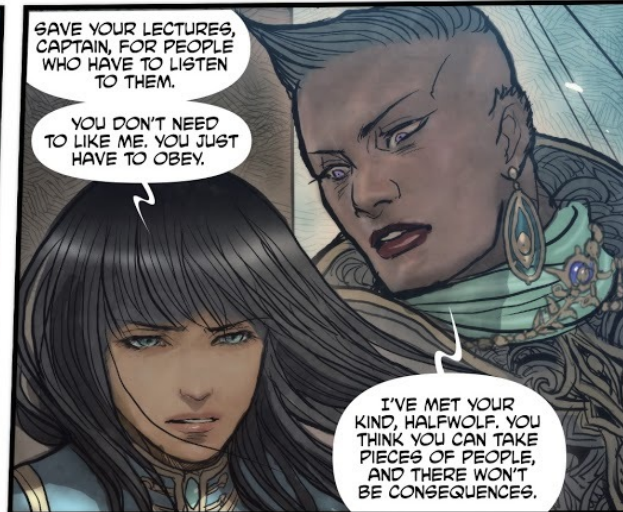
COMMANDER
IMURA USED TO SAY
THAT YOU HAVE TO BE
HARDER THAN STEEL
TO HOLD A SHIP
TOGETHER.

AND HERE YOU
ARE, TRYING TO
TEAR MY SHIP TO
SPLINTERS.

THE COMMANDER
ASKED ME TO BRING YOU
TO THE ISLE OF BONES,
BUT WHAT I'M TEMPTED
TO DO IS JUST BLEED YOU
AND THROW YOUR BODY
TO THE DEEP. MAKE AN
EXCUSE TO THE OLD MAN.



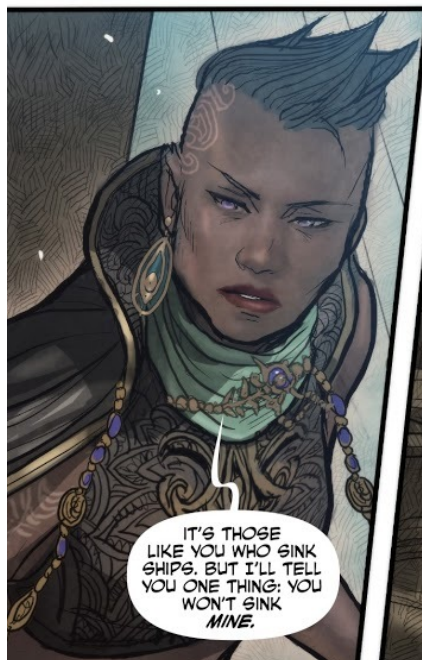
BUT THEY'RE
SENTIMENTAL...
AND THEY'VE
LOST
ENOUGH.



SAVE YOUR LECTURES,
CAPTAIN, FOR PEOPLE
WHO HAVE TO LISTEN
TO THEM.

YOU DON'T NEED
TO LIKE ME. YOU JUST
HAVE TO OBEY.

I'VE MET YOUR
KIND, HALFWOLF. YOU
THINK YOU CAN TAKE
PIECES OF PEOPLE,
AND THERE WON'T
BE CONSEQUENCES.



IT'S THOSE
LIKE YOU WHO SINK
SHIPS. BUT I'LL TELL
YOU ONE THING: YOU
WON'T SINK
MINE.

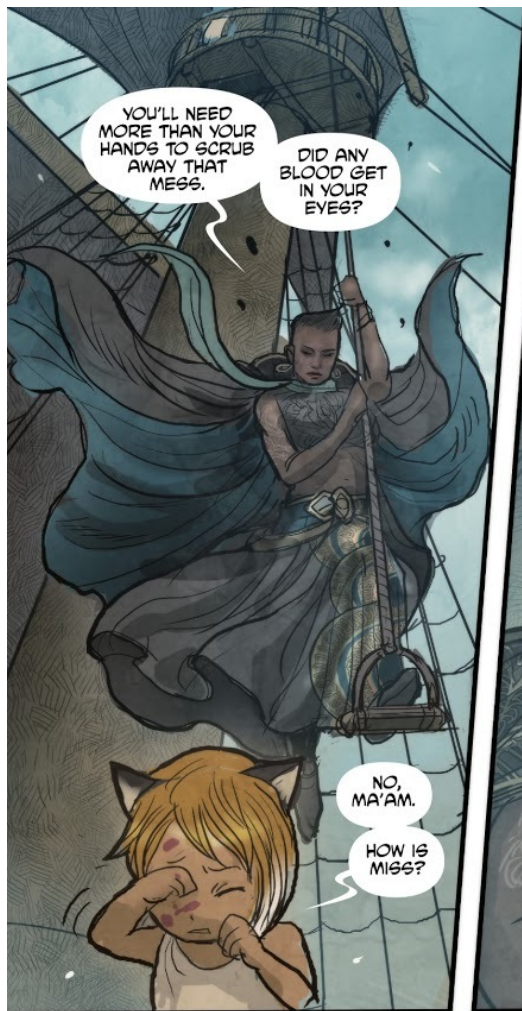


THE SEA
TEACHES THERE
ARE CONSEQUENCES
TO EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING,
YOU HEAR? SMALL
RIPPLES BECOME
WAVES THAT CAN
RAVAGE EVEN
THE SAFEST
HARBOR.



WHEN
YOUR WAVE
COMES... I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
GOING TO LOOK
SO BRAVE.



YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN YOUR HANDS TO SCRUB AWAY THAT MESS.

DID ANY BLOOD GET IN YOUR EYES?

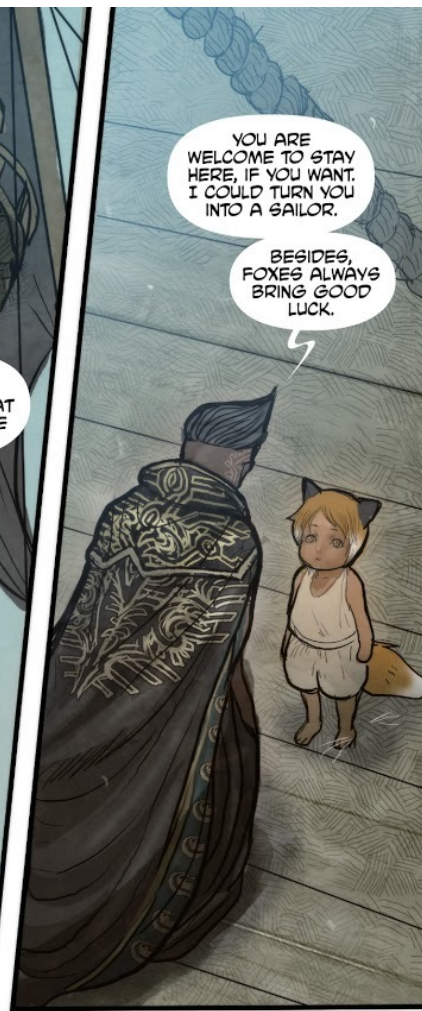
NO, MA'AM.

HOW IS MISS?



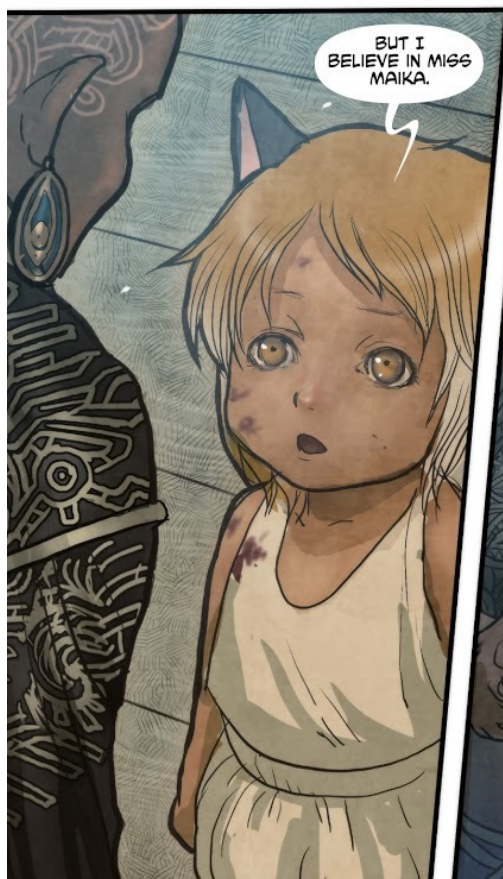
SAVE YOUR CONCERN, GIRL. YOU THINK YOU CAN ACCOMPANY HER... BUT LET ME GIVE YOU A LESSON: SHARKS SWIM ALONE.

ONE DAY SHE'S GOING TO EAT YOU. BELIEVE ME.

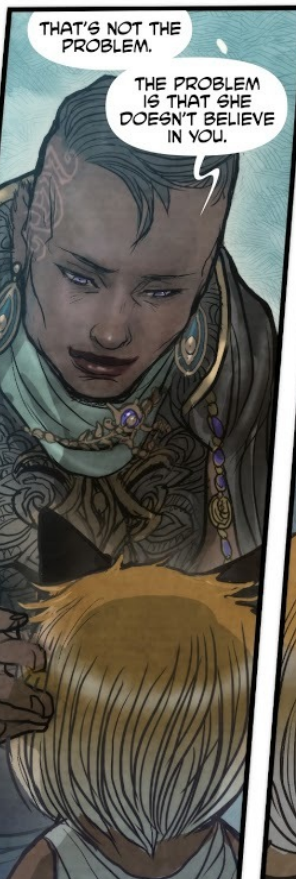


YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY HERE, IF YOU WANT. I COULD TURN YOU INTO A SAILOR.

BESIDES, FOXES ALWAYS BRING GOOD LUCK.



BUT I BELIEVE IN MISS MAIKA.

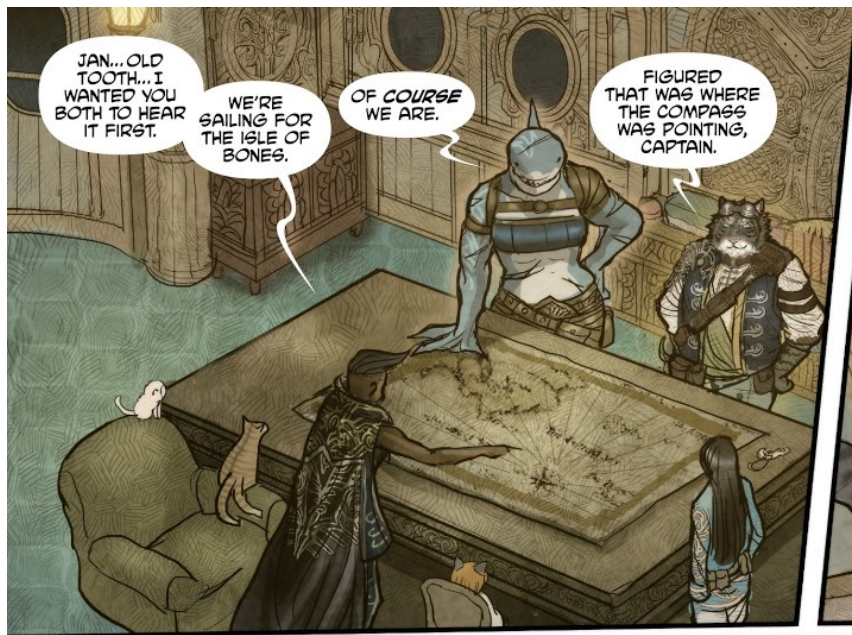


THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN YOU.



WHEN SHE'S ANGRY... DO YOU THINK YOU EVEN EXIST?



JAN...OLD TOOTH...I WANTED YOU BOTH TO HEAR IT FIRST.

WE'RE SAILING FOR THE ISLE OF BONES.

OF COURSE WE ARE.

FIGURED THAT WAS WHERE THE COMPASS WAS POINTING, CAPTAIN.



COULDN'T RECKON ANOTHER REASON THE HALF-WOLF'S DAUGHTER WOULD BE ON OUR SHIP.



THE CREW WILL PROTEST, TO PUT IT MILDLY.



COMMANDER IMURA DIDN'T ISSUE A REQUEST -- HE ISSUED AN ORDER, AND DEATH TO SHE WHO DISOBEYS IT.

AYE, WELL, THE OLD-TIMERS WILL FALL IN LINE. THEY ARE AS BRAVE AS THE SEA. IT IS THE NEW ONES WE PICKED UP AT PORT WHO MAY BREAK WHEN THEY HEAR WHERE WE'RE HEADED.



WHERE WE'RE GOING IS DANGEROUS, YES, BUT SAILORS *HAVE* RETURNED FROM THE MISTS. THE TOUSSAINT SISTERS AND THOSE BLASTED CATS -- WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES?

THE STORMFURS.

AND COMMANDER IMURA AND MY MOTHER.

TWO OTHERS, AS WELL. MEMBERS OF MY VERY OWN CREW WHO SHIPPED WITH THE COMMANDER AND WERE THERE AT THE LANDING.



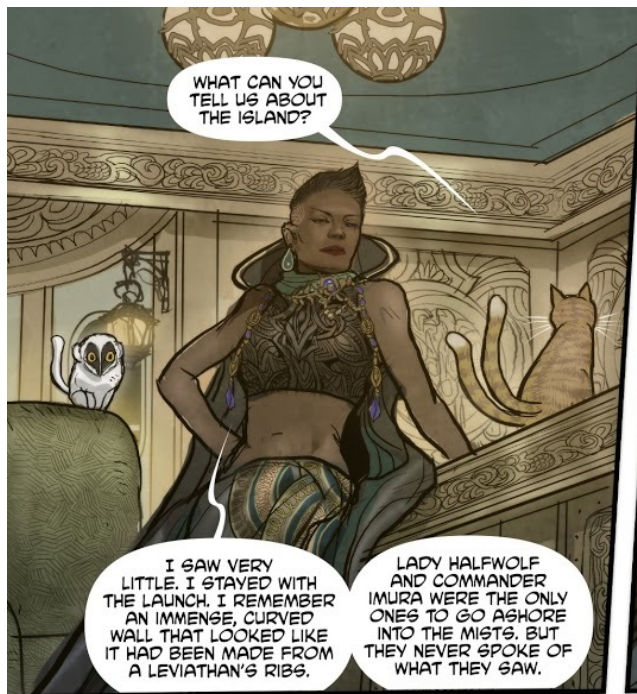
THEM?

AND THE CAPTAIN, CAT.

SHE WAS OUR NAVIGATOR LAST TIME. WITHOUT HER, WE WOULD HAVE DIED.

I WON'T BE DOING THAT AGAIN. BACK IN THOSE YEARS I WAS JUST A DISPOSABLE HARPOON.

NOW SHE'S GOT THE SHIP AND THE CREW TO LOOK AFTER.



WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ISLAND?

I SAW VERY LITTLE. I STAYED WITH THE LAUNCH. I REMEMBER AN IMMENSE, CURVED WALL THAT LOOKED LIKE IT HAD BEEN MADE FROM A LEVIATHAN'S RIBS.

LADY HALFWOLF AND COMMANDER IMURA WERE THE ONLY ONES TO GO ASHORE INTO THE MISTS. BUT THEY NEVER SPOKE OF WHAT THEY SAW.



EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN A CHILD.

JAN WAS INDEED A CUB -- SNUCK ABOARD OUR SKIFF, AGAINST ORDERS. THE COMMANDER NEARLY BEAT THE STRIPES OUT OF HIS FUR FOR THAT.

I HAD TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT WAS MAKING YOU ADULTS PISS YOUR BREECHES. IT WASN'T ALL THAT BAD.



CUT THAT LYING TONGUE. I'VE SAILED MANY A DARK SEA, BUT THOSE MISTS ARE SOME OF THE DARKEST.

I'D RATHER NOT GO BACK INSIDE THAT ABYSS.

DON'T BE SO GLOOMY, SWEET FIN.

STOP YOUR PLAYING, JAN.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MISS. YOU CANNOT NAVIGATE IN THAT PLACE. IT'S A WHITE VEIL THAT COMES DOWN BETWEEN YOU AND THE WORLD.

ALL YOU DO IS ROW AND PRAY THE WAVE EMPRESS WILL GUIDE YOU TO LAND.

AND THAT'S NOT ACCOUNTING FOR THE SCREAMS.

SCREAMS?

THE POETS SAY THAT THOSE WHO NEVER MAKE IT TO LAND ARE TRAPPED IN THE MIST FOR ALL ETERNITY.



WE'LL SEND IN A TWO-PERSON SKIFF. JUST THE HALF-WOLF AND ONE OTHER TO MAKE THE LANDING AND MIND THE CRAFT WHILE SHE GOES ASHORE.

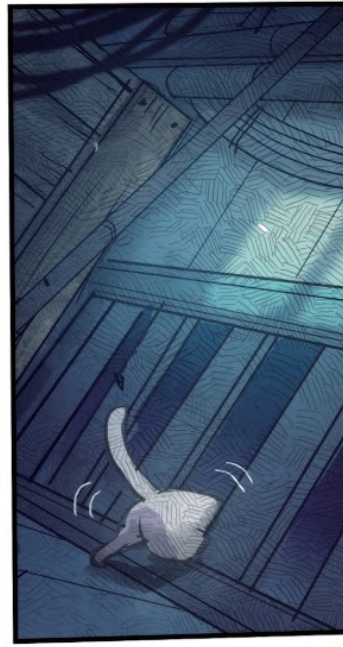
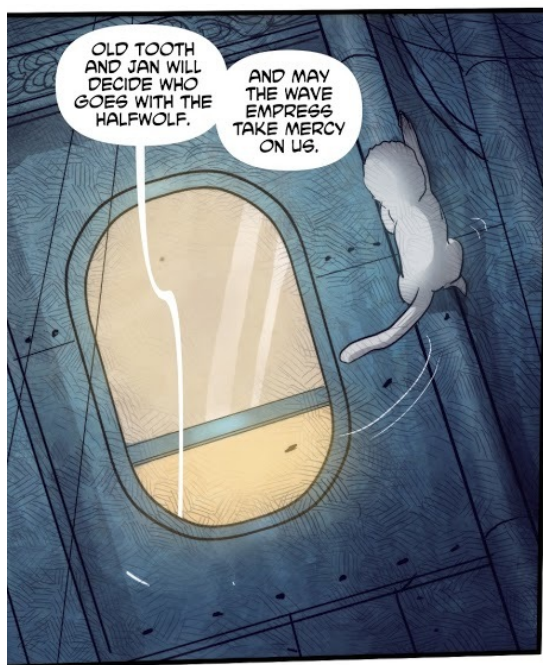


I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE. I CAN DO IT ON MY OWN.

THEN YOU ARE A FOOL. YOU'RE NOT GOING BY YOURSELF. YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP NAVIGATE YOU TO SHORE.

OLD TOOTH SAID IT AMOUNTS TO LITTLE MORE THAN PRAYING YOU'RE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WHY DO I NEED ANOTHER PERSON FOR THAT?

I'LL KNOW WHERE LAND IS.





OUR
ORDERS ARE
TO PREVENT
THE HALF-WOLF
FROM LANDING
ON THAT
ISLAND.

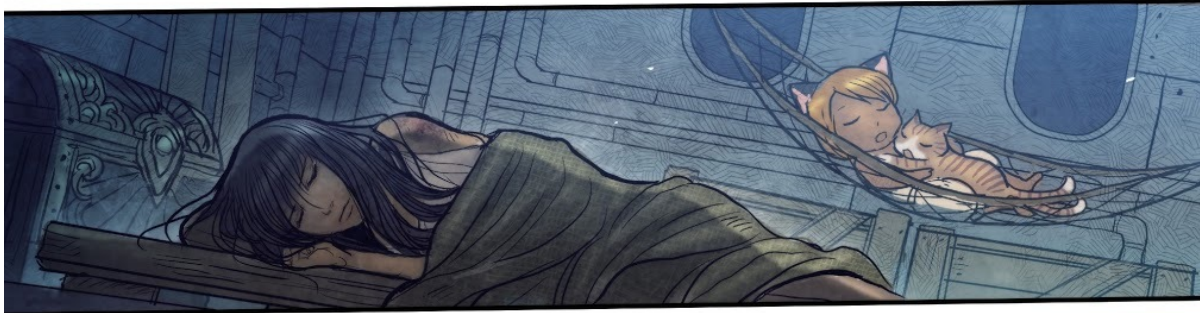
AND HOW
WILL WE STOP
HER? SHE IS TOO
STRONG. YOU SAW
HOW SHE TORE
THE LIMB OFF THE
SEA-BREED.



HOW
YOUNG YOU
BOTH ARE.
THERE ARE
WAYS, I
ASSURE
YOU.

AND
WHEN THE
HALF-WOLF IS
DEAD?

WE WILL
ALSO TAKE
THE MASK.



I WAKE... ...AND TO THINK...
I WAS FOOLISH
ENOUGH... TO
BELIEVE... I MIGHT
NOT... ?



IT SEEMS...
NOT MUCH
TIME... HAS
PASSED...

...SO
WHERE
HAVE YOU
TAKEN US
NOW...
CHILD?

YOU...
WHO ARE SO
DRAWN... TO
ALL... THAT IS
MISERABLE?



FUCK.
YOU'RE
BACK.



YOU
HAVE... BEEN
UNWISE...

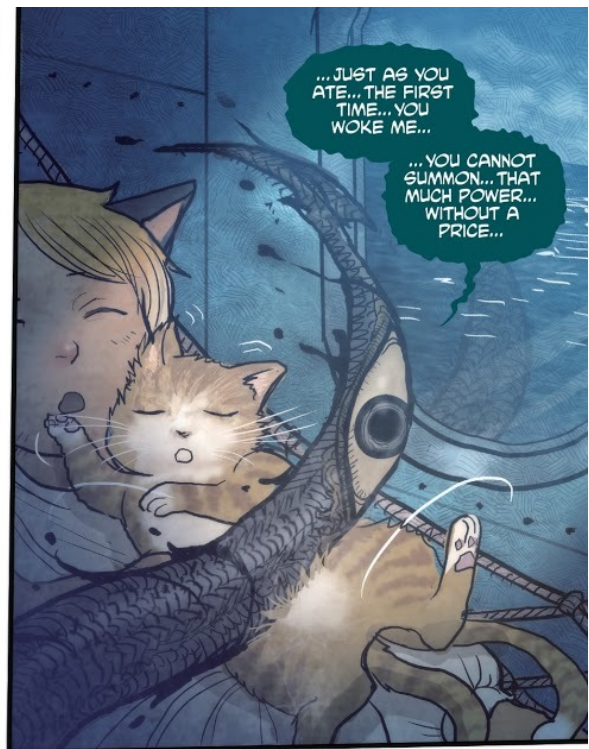
...THE SEA
SLAYS AS MANY
AS IT CARRIES...
HERE, DEATH IS
EVERYWHERE.

...DEATH
FOR YOU...
REBIRTH
FOR ME.



YOU ATE THE REST OF MY ARM, YOU SISTER-FUCKER. THAT WASN'T PART OF THE BARGAIN WHEN I GAVE YOU YOUR NAME.

NO... YOU ATE IT... YOURSELF...

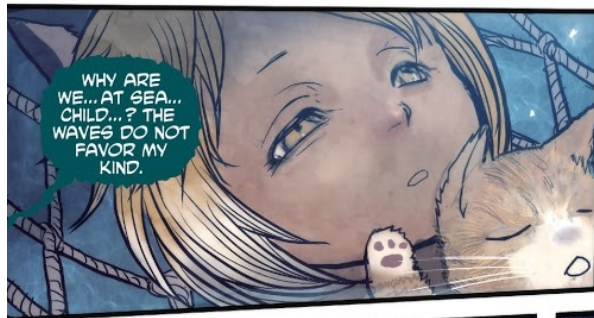


...JUST AS YOU ATE... THE FIRST TIME... YOU WOKE ME...

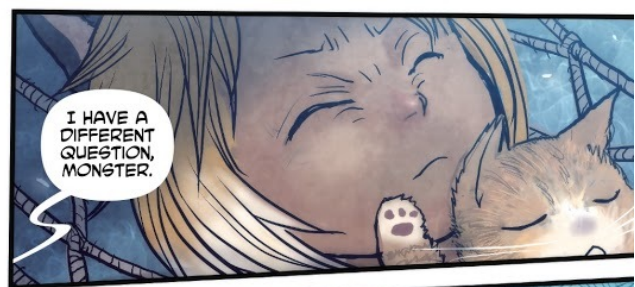
... YOU CANNOT SUMMON... THAT MUCH POWER... WITHOUT A PRICE...



IMAGINE... WHAT YOU MIGHT LOSE... THE NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE... TO TAKE CONTROL?



WHY ARE WE... AT SEA... CHILD...? THE WAVES DO NOT FAVOR MY KIND.



I HAVE A DIFFERENT QUESTION, MONSTER.



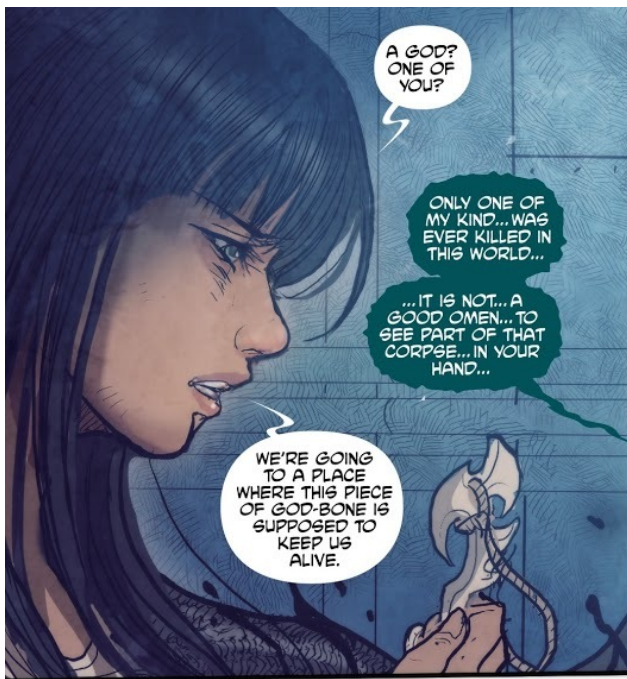
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FUCK THIS IS?



WHERE... DID YOU FIND... THAT ACCURSED PIECE... OF BONE?

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

OF COURSE... IT MATTERS... WHEN WHAT YOU ARE HOLDING... IS FROM THE SKELETON... OF A GOD...



A GOD?
ONE OF
YOU?

ONLY ONE OF
MY KIND... WAS
EVER KILLED IN
THIS WORLD...

...IT IS NOT... A
GOOD OMEN... TO
SEE PART OF THAT
CORPSE... IN YOUR
HAND...

WE'RE GOING
TO A PLACE
WHERE THIS PIECE
OF GOD-BONE IS
SUPPOSED TO
KEEP US
ALIVE.



DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
WE'LL FIND
THERE?

WHEN I WAS IN THE
BODY... OF YOUR
ANCESTOR... THERE
WERE STORIES... ABOUT
THE RESTING PLACE...
OF THIS GOD'S
CORPSE...

...IT HAD
BECOME A
PRISON...

...FOR AN
ANCIENT... WHO
HAD LOST...
ITS MIND...

YOU WOULD
BE BETTER
SERVED... NOT
GOING TO
SUCH A
PLACE...



INDEED, OUR
LIVES... WOULD BE
IMPROVED
IMMENSELY... IF YOU
TURNED YOUR
ATTENTION... TO
DESTROYING THE
MASK...

THE ABYSSAL
ONE WE FOUGHT...
I AM NOT
CONVINCED... WE
KILLED IT.

AS LONG
AS THE MASK EXISTS...
NO ONE IN THIS WORLD... IS
SAFE... NOT EVEN A BEING
AS EXALTED...
AS ME...



YOU ONLY
WANT TO KEEP
YOURSELF
SAFE.

IT IS WISE... TO
CARE... ABOUT
SURVIVAL... ONLY A
FOOL... INVITES
THEIR OWN...
RUIN...



...WHICH IS WHY...
I FIND YOUR USUAL
LACK OF SELF-
PRESERVATION...
SO UNUSUAL...



...I WILL
LIVE... A WHILE
LONGER...

...AND NOT
EVEN THE
SPECTER... OF
A GOOD
DROWNING...

...WILL KEEP
ME... FROM MY
APPETITES...



There was always the possibility that things might have turned out differently.

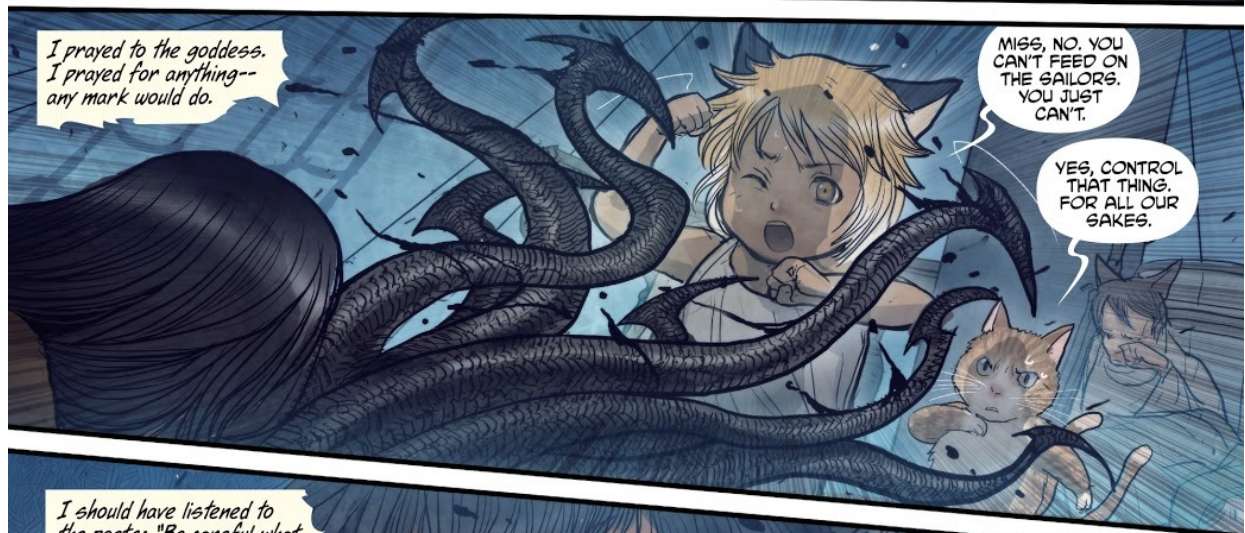


Some Arcanics only get the mark when they're of age. Then, their eyes change, or their teeth grow sharp... or their tails appear.

... THEY WILL NEVER KNOW...

... OR MAKE A SOUND...

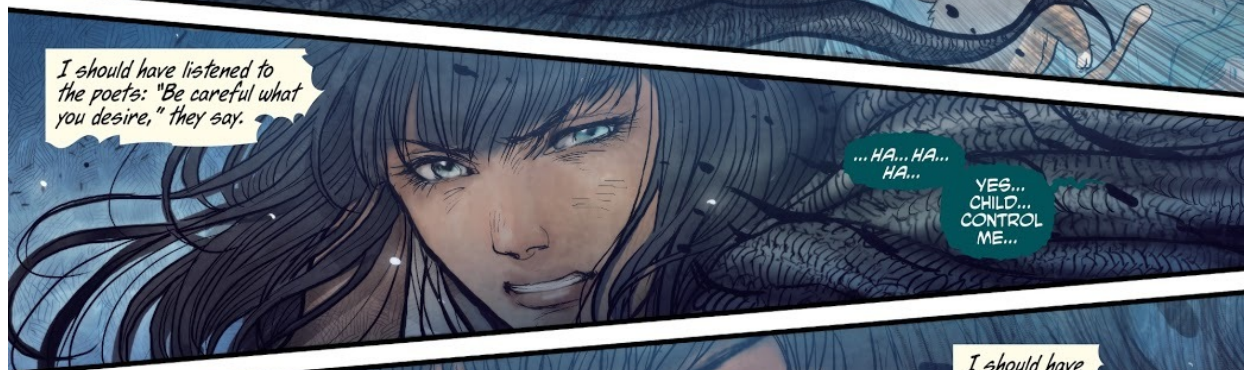
... AND THEIR BODIES... WILL BE EASILY DISCARDED...



I prayed to the goddess. I prayed for anything--any mark would do.

MISS, NO. YOU CAN'T FEED ON THE SAILORS. YOU JUST CAN'T.

YES, CONTROL THAT THING. FOR ALL OUR SAKES.



I should have listened to the poets: "Be careful what you desire," they say.

... HA... HA... HA...

YES... CHILD... CONTROL ME...



I should have listened to you, mother.

... CONTROL... OUR HUNGER...



NO!

... THAT...
IS NOT WHAT
I HAD... IN
MIND...

SPLSSH

MISS!
SOMEONE
HELP!

FUCK.
ME.



GASP!



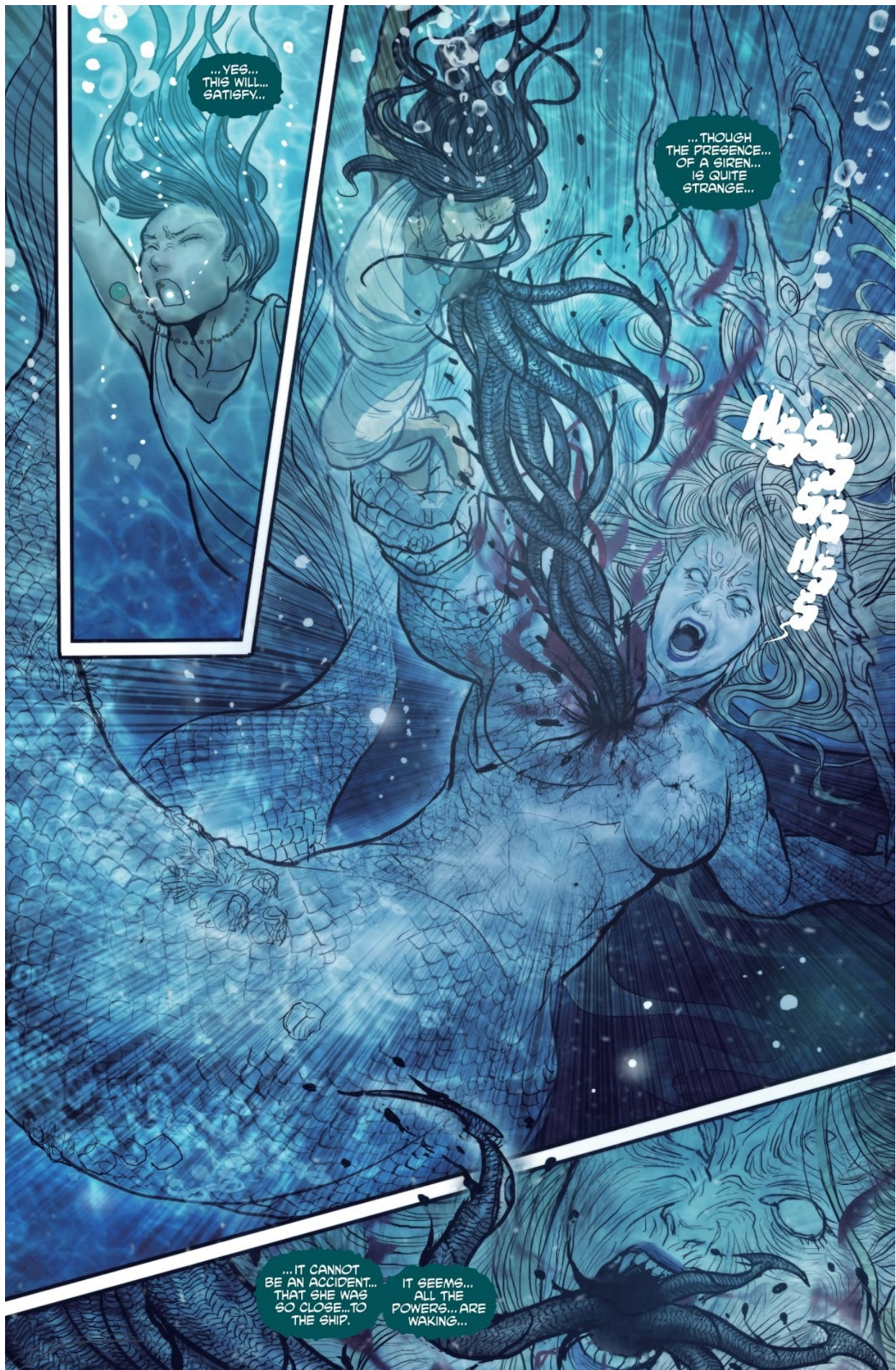
YOU...
ARE A SUCH...
A BOTHER...

GO
AND DIE
HUNGRY.

OH, CHILD...
I AM NOTHING...
IF NOT...
RESOURCEFUL...



NO!



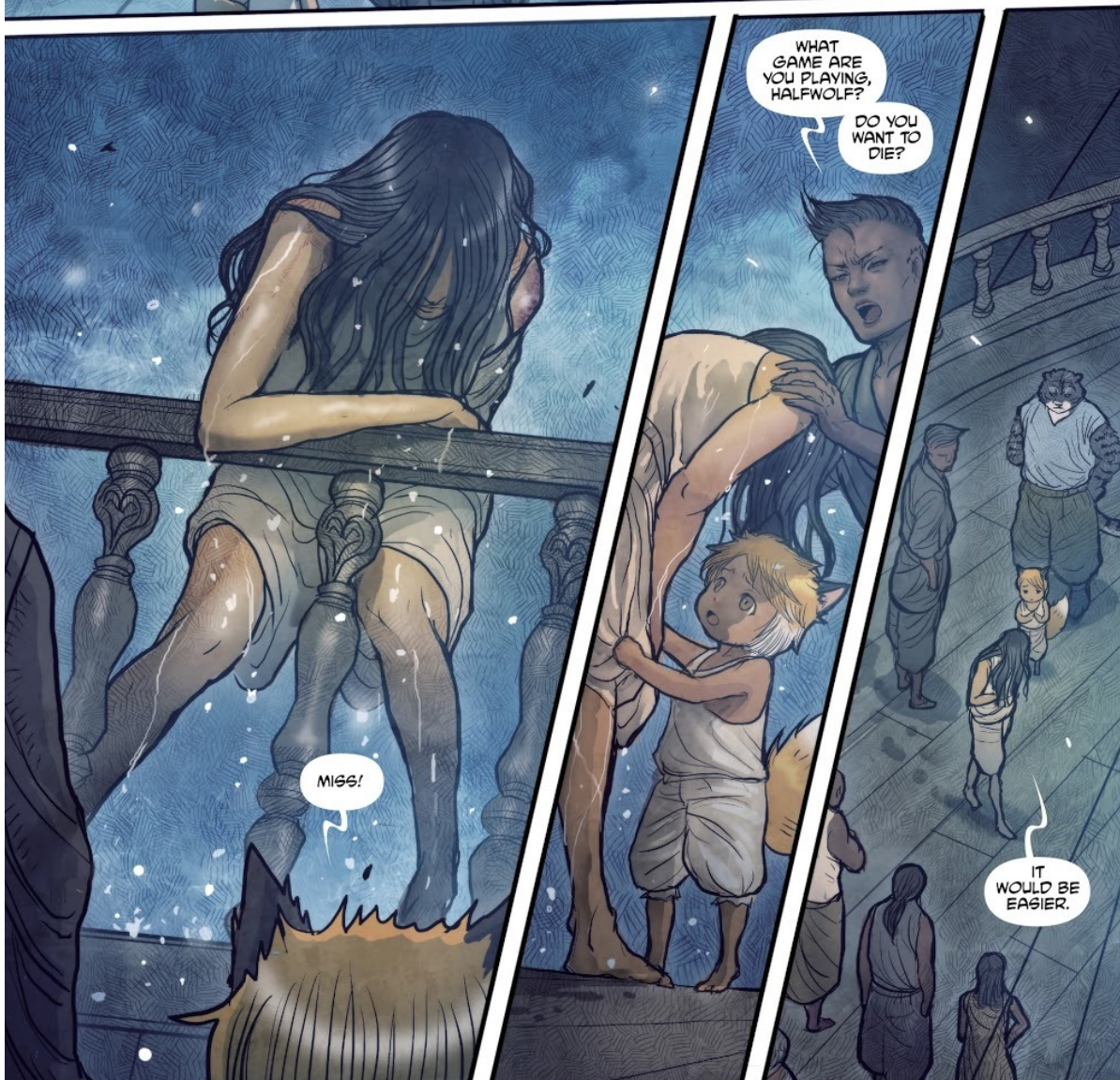
...YES...
THIS WILL...
SATISFY...

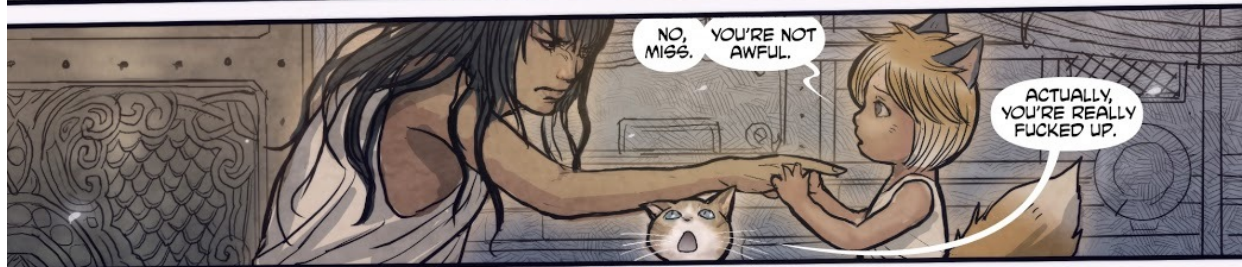
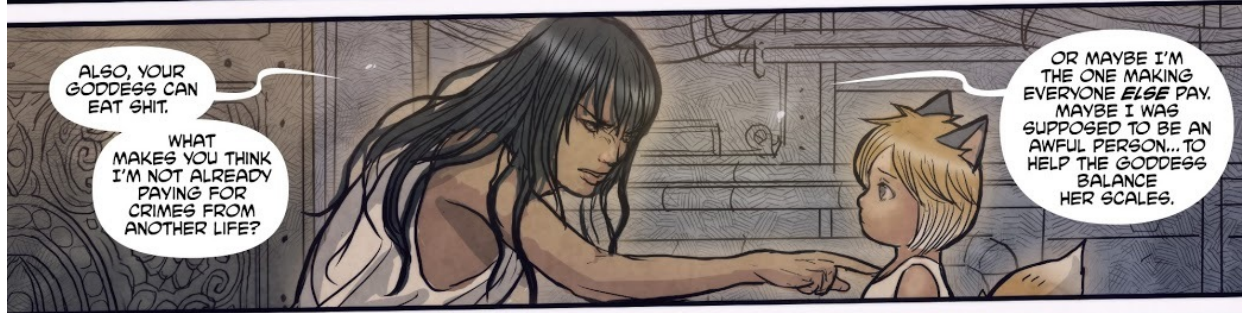
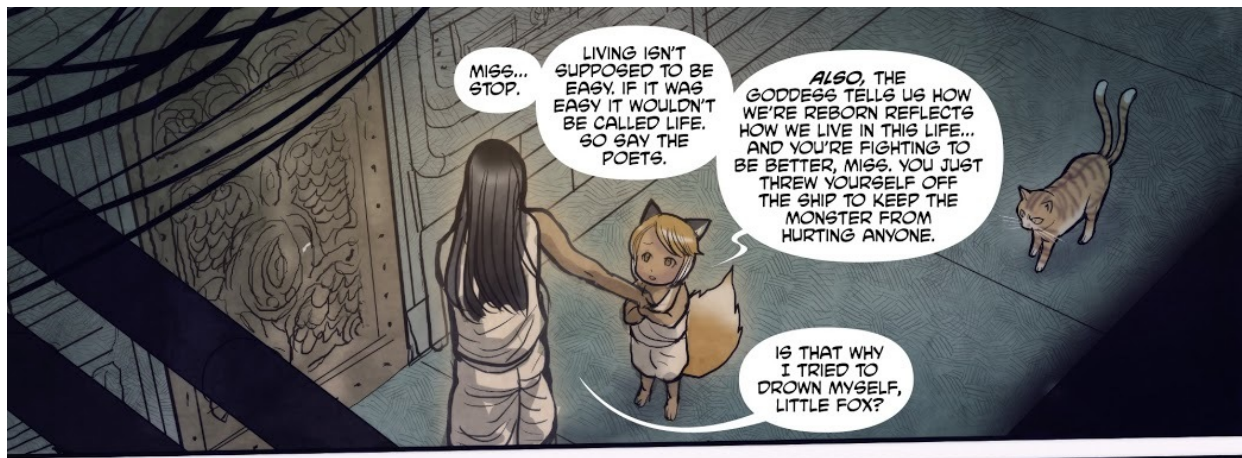
...THOUGH
THE PRESENCE...
OF A SIREN...
IS QUITE
STRANGE...

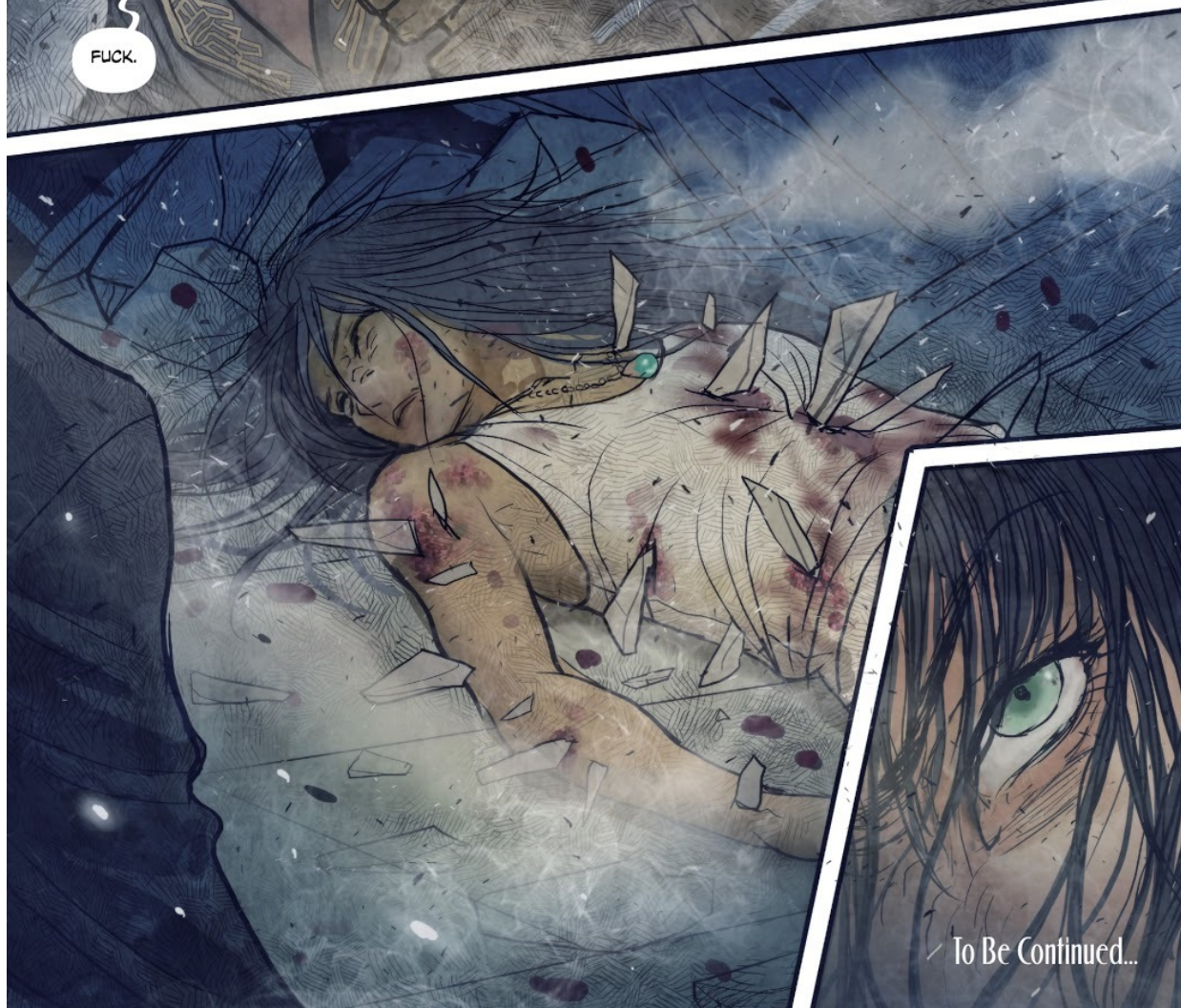
HSS
SS
HSS
SS

...IT CANNOT
BE AN ACCIDENT...
THAT SHE WAS
SO CLOSE...TO
THE SHIP.

IT SEEMS...
ALL THE
POWERS...ARE
WAKING...







From the archives of the esteemed **Professor Tam Tam**, former First Record-Keeper of the Is'hami Temple, and learned contemporary of Namron Black Claw...

THE FEDERATION NEEDS **YOU!**

The liberty and safety of every human is under dire threat.
Answer the call. Won't you be the hero we need?



Visit your local government office or Cumaeon house of worship and band together with your comrades!



JOIN NOW!

IF THE FEDERATION FALLS, YOU FALL!

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

DEMONICAS are the most terrible and ancient of the demons who threaten humankind. Immortal, hungry for flesh, they keep harems of tortured humans – and forcibly breed upon them the living atrocities that we know as...

...**HALF-SPAWNS**. Part human, part Demonica – all fiend. When young, their strength is limited – but at puberty the Half-Spawn experiences the Awakening, and gains their power.



Beware the **DECEIVERS**, Half-Spawn who can pass as human. Never let down your guard! Test even the most innocent face with a dog or scope!



DESTROY THESE MAD BRUTES! ENLIST TODAY!

monstress mail

Send letters & fan art to: monstress.comic@gmail.com!
#Monsstress on Twitter and Instagram!

Greetings, MONSTRESS fans! Thanks again for joining us on this journey over land and sea, and for sending in your letters and gorgeous fan art. You truly are the best fans, and taking in your correspondence and your creativity is always a thrill for the whole team.

Now, onto this month's letters!

Dear Team MONSTRESS,

I absolutely adore your comic, for a number of reasons. Having a female-led (and largely female-dominant) cast is supremely important and far too uncommon in comics, and I applaud you for that. The story you tell – with all its darkness, horror and beauty – is both delightful and gut-wrenching. Lastly, the characters and world you have created are a wonder to behold. Takeda's art is gorgeous and pairs wonderfully with Liu's writing. I applaud you both. I am blown away by each new installment.

Enclosed please find my own little homage to your work.

Thank you so much for telling this story!
Raphael B.
@basemondo

P.S. A big shout out to the team at Fantom Comics in Washington, D.C. for recommending the very first issue of MONSTRESS to me.



Wow, Raphael! The detail work on the Monstrum's arm is just stunning, and we're honored that we inspired you to create this piece. Thank you for sending it, and please thank the folks at Fantom Comics on our behalf!

Dear MONSTRESS Team,

I enjoyed MONSTRESS so much that I just had to draw some fan art in my free time for it. It's called "The Night Watch," and takes place roughly in between the last pages of issue #4.

I imagined the three characters Maika, Kippa, and Master Ren hiding in the forest, protecting each other. While I had the composition almost instantly in my head, most of the smaller ideas and details (e.g. Maika waking up Ren, but not Kippa) came while drawing it. The forest took some time, also the bark of the trees and the fur...but I am glad it's finally finished. Originally, I wanted to make a coloured version, but after I was done with the greyscale drawing, I liked it this way. And I also wanted to hurry up and send it. :D

I really hope you enjoy the final piece. It would be a real honour to be printed inside a MONSTRESS comic book! (I love how much effort and space you use in every issue for feedback and fan art, that's awesome!)

So glad that Marjorie Liu met Sana Takeda and that, together, they are creating this fantastic thing called MONSTRESS, thank you!

Thanks also to the small team beside them, for all the support and the work they are putting into this project too. Oh, and also thanks to Image for publishing it. :)

I am sooo hyped for #6 and everything that'll come in the future. Can't wait!

Please excuse my English – best regards from Germany, and have a great week.

David "Kopfstoff" M.



Oh my gosh, David. This is gorgeous work, and it's clear you put a ton of care and effort into it. We love the story you've crafted surrounding this "missing scene" - the contrast of innocent, sleeping Kippa and the suspiciously half-awake Master Ren is perfection. Thank you so much for sharing your brilliance!

Hi Team MONSTRESS,

First off I absolutely love the comic, it seriously combines everything I love in one book: fantasy elements, weird elder gods, revenge, a protagonist struggling with their own darkness, a cute kid sidekick, a badass female lead, etc. Keep up the great work. I also wanted to write to say that over the weekend I learned that this team had a run on X-23, one of my favorite comic characters. It was an awesome surprise to read Marjorie's take on Laura's story and to see Sana draw X-Men characters. I loved the run and I can't wait to see what comes next in MONSTRESS.

Cheers,
Peter S.

Thanks, Peter! As you might have been able to tell, those are some of the things we love most, too, and we're thrilled that others share those opinions! Thanks for checking out X-23, too. Without that book, MONSTRESS might never have happened!

To Marjorie, Sana, and the whole MONSTRESS team,

After reading issue 5 last night (that final double-page spread had me smiling so hard at the coolness of it all), I realized that MONSTRESS has slowly become my favorite comic to read each month. And to think it all started because I saw that issue #1 was oversized and thought I'd give it a try without knowing much about the book.

As powerful and fascinating as issue #1 was, what became my favorite part of the series (besides the fantastic art and the emphasis and care given to depict powerful women and respect to Asian culture) was the intricate world-building. Reading issue by issue, clues about the world within MONSTRESS are slowly given out without blatantly spelling out everything (a sin a lot of fantasy books fall into). As a reader, I get to try to imagine how the world pans out and then want to read further and see if I was right. The world building reminds me of my favorite fantasy books and RPGs and I love that.

Anyway, just wanted to voice my appreciation to the team and a wish for continued success to the book (congratulations on the well-deserved Eisner nod). Also, the Kippa-Master Ren pairing is more adorable than a room full of puppies.

A fan,
Oliver W.

Those are some humbling compliments, Oliver! We put a lot of effort into making the world-building as clear, consistent, and compelling as possible, and we're happy to hear that effort is paying off for readers. And while I believe the room full of puppies might give Kippa and Master Ren a run for their money, the rest of Team MONSTRESS agrees with your assessment. Thanks for reading!

- Jennifer

FAN ART (& CRAFTS)

Vase by: **Paper Knight** (@panovanator)



Send fan art (and crafts) to: monstress.comic@gmail.com!
#Monestress on Twitter and Instagram!

MARJORIE LIU • SANA TAKEDA

MONSTRESS™



CUSTOM COMIC BOX

Marjorie Liu and Sana Takeda. All rights reserved.



ONLY AVAILABLE AT

BOXSETINACTION.COM

MONSTRESS™ ISSUE 8

WRITTEN BY MARJORIE LIU
ILLUSTRATED BY SANA TAKEDA

LETTERED BY RUS WOOTON
EDITED BY JENNIFER M SMITH
CERI RILEY : EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
AKI YANAGI : TRANSLATOR



MONSTRESS™ CREATED BY
MARJORIE LIU & SANA TAKEDA



IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman - Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larson - Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane - President
Marc Silvestri - Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino - Vice-President
Eric Stephenson - Publisher
Corey Murphy - Director of Sales
Jeff Boese - Director of Publishing Planning & Book Trade Sales
Jeremy Sullivan - Director of Digital Sales
Kat Salazar - Director of PR & Marketing
Brennan Bippelstone - Controller
Drew Gill - Art Director
Jonathan Chan - Production Manager
Meredith Wallace - Print Manager
Brian Skelly - Publisher
Sasha Reed - Sales & Marketing Production Designer
Randy Okamura - Digital Production Designer
David Brothers - Branding Manager
Ochia Ngal - Content Manager
Addison Duke - Production Artist
Vincent Kukul - Production Artist
Tatiana Ramos - Production Artist
Jeff Stang - Direct Market Sales Representative
Emilia Bruttiata - Digital Sales Associate
Leanna Cawter - Accounting Assistant
Chloe Ramos-Peterson - Library Market Sales Representative
IMAGECOMICS.COM

MONSTRESS™ #8. November 2016. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2016 Marjorie Liu & Sana Takeda. All rights reserved. MONSTRESS™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Marjorie Liu & Sana Takeda, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION.
For international rights inquiries, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

NEXT ISSUE

MONSTRESS



MARJORIE LIU

ISSUE 9



\$3.99

SANA TAKEDA

#monstress

MONSTRESS



IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED M / MATURE

SPECIAL DELIVERY



D'ARGH-EMPIRE